

ABSTRACT

Title: Creating a Professional Development Certificate Program to Enhance College Student

Career Readiness

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The purpose of this creative project was to create a Professional Development Certificate Program for the Ball State University Career Center. This program also has the potential to be implemented into other career centers at institutions of higher education. The Career Center at Ball State University recently made a specific goal to focus more on the retention of sophomores. This program will help the Career Center accomplishment that goal. The program is intended to provide more engagement, focus, and understanding of professional development areas for sophomores and juniors. This is done through structured requirements to complete a variety of professional development activities and to compile those experiences into a portfolio.

Research has shown that sophomores need encouragement and challenge to become more involved and dedicated to the college experience. The Professional Development Certificate Program will engage these students and motivate them to focus on their future goals. In addition, juniors will receive an early start on gaining the knowledge, skills, and experience to help in their job or graduate school search for after graduation.